AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for receiving said pre-set average bit rate;

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding; and

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding.

2. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding; and

means for selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream.

3. (Currently amended) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been

changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

    means for receiving said pre-set average bit rate;

    means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

    means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding; and

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

4. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

    means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

    means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

    means for computing a ratio of a complexity measure in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

5. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been

changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding; and

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream.

6. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from said complexity measures;

means for computing the quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure;

means for computing an average of respective quantizer step sizes every prescribed period or number of pictures, according to an encoding prediction mode of said input compressed moving picture stream, using the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream; and

means for computing an addition value for each encoding prediction mode, using said

quantizer step size and said average quantizer step size, and computing an addition quantizer step size in which an addition value has been added to said input compressed moving picture stream quantizer step size,

wherein said addition quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to the difference (excess or deficiency) between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding.

7. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing, by using a maximum bit rate among set bit rates and either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, the maximum bit rate quantizer step size at said maximum bit rate; and

means for taking said maximum bit rate quantizer step size and the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding as input, and outputting the quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding.

8. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream; and

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from said complexity measures.

9. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

means for computing the quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding.

10. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure;

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding.

11. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

means for computing the quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding, and

pictures from a picture re-encoded at a start of re-encoding to a picture immediately preceding that for which re-encoding is currently being performed, or a plurality of pictures including one image encoded within a frame, are used as a plurality of pictures used as said prescribed period or number of pictures.

12. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of

prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-enencoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said recording, and

pictures from a picture re-encoded at a start of re-encoding to a picture immediately preceding that for which re-encoding is currently being performed, or a plurality of pictures including one image re-encoded within a frame, are used as a plurality of pictures used as said prescribed period or number of pictures.

13. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding, and

a group of blocks into which a picture is divided is used for said prescribed period for adjusting a base quantizer step size according to excess or deficiency with respect to said target number of bits.

14. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a

difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding, and

a group of blocks into which a picture is divided is used for said prescribed period for adjusting a base quantizer step size according to excess or deficiency with respect to said target number of bits.

15. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding,

wherein a group of blocks into which a picture is divided is used for said prescribed

period for adjusting a base quantizer step size according to excess or deficiency with respect to said target number of bits and pictures from a picture re-encoded at a start of re-encoding to a picture immediately preceding that for which re-encoding is currently being performed, or a plurality of pictures including one image encoded within a frame, are used as a plurality of pictures used as said prescribed period or number of pictures.

16. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

 means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

 means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

 means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

 means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

 means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

 wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding,

 a group of blocks into which a picture is divided is used for said prescribed period for adjusting a base quantizer step size according to excess or deficiency with respect to said target number of bits, and

 pictures from a picture re-encoded at a start of re-encoding to a picture immediately

preceding that for which re-encoding is currently being performed, or a plurality of pictures including one image re-encoded within a frame, are used as a plurality of pictures used as said prescribed period or number of pictures.

17. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures;

means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure, wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to the difference between the target number of bits and the actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding; and

means for selecting a minimum complexity measure among said plurality of complexity measures.

18. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been

changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

  means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

  means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

  means for selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream;

  means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

  means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures;

  means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure, wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to the difference between the target number of bits and the actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding; and

  means for selecting a minimum complexity measure among said plurality of complexity measures.

19. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

  means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

  means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in

actual re-encoding;

means for selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream;

means for computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream, wherein pictures from a picture re-encoded at the start of re-encoding to a picture immediately preceding that for which re-encoding is currently being performed, or a plurality of pictures including one image encoded within a frame, are used as a plurality of pictures used as said prescribed period or number of pictures;

means for outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures;

means for computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure, wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to the difference between the target number of bits and the actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding; and

means for selecting a minimum complexity measure among said plurality of complexity measures.

20. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

21. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

22. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

      means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

23. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

      means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

24. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

      means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

25. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

      means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

26. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

      means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

27. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

     means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

28. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

     means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

29. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:

     means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

30. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

     means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

31. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

     means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

     means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both

of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture
stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

32. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according
to claim 10, further comprising:

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step
size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure
computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

    means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period
or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or
both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture
stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

33. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according
to claim 11, further comprising:

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step
size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure
computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

    means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period
or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or
both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture
stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

34. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according
to claim 12, further comprising:

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step
size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure
computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

    means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period
or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or
both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture

stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

35. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

    means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

36. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

    means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

37. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

    means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

    means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

38. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

  means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

  means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

39. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

  means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

  means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

40. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:

  means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

  means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

41. (Previously presented) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for applying weighting, according to image characteristics, to the quantizer step size of said input compressed moving picture stream used in said complexity measure computation, and adjusting that quantizer step size; and

means for computing a ratio of respective complexity measures in a prescribed period or number of pictures to a complexity measure of an object of re-encoding, using either or both of the quantizer step size and the number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, performing weighting of said quantizer step size, and adjusting that quantizer step size.

42. (Currently amended) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 7, wherein a threshold setting is made for a prescribed plurality of quantizer step sizes with respect to an addition quantizer step size.

43. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus comprising:

means for computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

means for inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

means for computing, by using a maximum bit rate among set bit rates and either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits of said input compressed moving picture stream, a maximum bit rate quantizer step size at said maximum bit rate; and

means for taking said maximum bit rate quantizer step size and the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding as input, and outputting the quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding,

said means for computing the maximum bit rate quantizer step size comprises a rate

control that satisfies a ratio of an input bit stream bit rate to said maximum bit rate with

respect to a number of bits in a prescribed period or number of pictures of said input

compressed moving picture stream.

44. (Original claim) The compressed moving picture re-encoding apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein a minimum value is set for said quantizer step size that is used in re-encoding.

45. (Currently amended) A compressed moving picture re-encoding method that has an input

compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture

data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit

rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as

an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding method comprising:

　　　receiving a value for said pre-set average bit rate;

　　　computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding; and

　　　inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input

compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual

re-encoding.

46. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding method that has an

input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving

picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a

variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been

changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding method comprising:

　　　computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

　　　inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input

compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual

re-encoding; and

　　　selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-

encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream.

47. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding method that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding method comprising:

computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or a re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure,

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding.

48. (Previously presented) A compressed moving picture re-encoding method that has an input compressed moving picture stream, generated by a compression-encoding of moving picture data, as an input signal, performs re-encoding at a pre-set average bit rate and at a variable bit rate, and has an output compressed moving picture stream whose bit rate has been changed as an output signal, said compressed moving picture re-encoding method comprising:

computing a quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding;

inputting said computed quantizer step size and a quantizer step size in said input compressed moving picture stream and outputting a quantizer step size that is used in actual re-encoding;

selecting a larger quantizer step size from said quantizer step size that is used in re-

encoding and said quantizer step size in the input compressed moving picture stream;

computing respective complexity measures in two or more kinds of prescribed predetermined periods or numbers of pictures, using either or both of the quantizer step size and a number of bits in either of said input compressed moving picture stream or said re-encoded compressed moving picture stream;

outputting a prescribed complexity measure from a plurality of said complexity measures; and

computing said quantizer step size using said pre-set average bit rate and said output complexity measure;

wherein said quantizer step size is adjusted every prescribed period according to a difference between a target number of bits and an actual number of bits, to give the quantizer step size that is used in said re-encoding.